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VEGETABLE Situation

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VEGETABLE SITUATION

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SUMMARY

Fresh vegetable supplies this spring probably will attain average levels but total slightly less than a year ago, with prospects for less domestic output and import changes too slight to affect supplies significantly. Canned vegetable supplies are in a little smaller supply and frozen stocks are down moderately. Burdensome potato stocks continue to depress prices. For dry beans, stocks are light and grower prices high.

Winter fresh vegetable production was up slightly, mostly because of a bigger Florida tomato crop resulting from a mild winter. On the West Coast it was a different story. Cold weather early in the winter delayed and reduced the important lettuce harvest.

Fresh vegetable prices have fluctuated widely, as usual. From December through February, grower prices were record high, but then they skidded to the lowest March level since 1967. Prices have recovered from the March low, but usual seasonal increases in supply are expected to temper any further gain.

There probably will be more melons this season if planting intentions are realized. Spring cantaloup plantings are expected to be moderately larger, and substantially larger acreages of watermelons are planned.

With processed vegetable supplies smaller, wholesale prices for several items have increased slightly in recent weeks. Overall, prices are moderately higher than a year ago. Disappearance has been a little heavier than a year ago, and available data suggest canners' stocks are down a little and frozen stocks are the lowest since 1966.

Processing vegetable growers this season expect to plant 3 percent more acreage of 8 major items, which typically make up about 90 percent of the total tonnage of processing vegetables. In addition, a 9 percent larger tonnage of kraut cabbage is likely to be under contract this year. If these plans are carried out, and if yields are about average, the total vegetable pack would be moderately larger. But, supplies generally would not be burdensome considering the small carryin expected.

Potato stocks are only slightly less than the record supply of a year ago. Prices have been weak for 2 consecutive seasons. Recent shipping point prices for western Russets ran higher than the low levels of a year earlier, but round stock prices continued under heavy pressure. Total movement through table stock and chipping outlets has been lagging, except in Idaho. The western crop has moved well enough so that Russet prices are likely to hold firm or increase during the rest of the marketing season.

Potato growers plan a 3 percent acreage cut for the important late summer and fall crops. Such a reduction with average yield conditions would likely bring a slight to moderate price improvement over the current storage season's low level. Late spring and early summer intended acreage is off 9 percent, and output may be reduced enough to give prices a change to rise at least seasonally, thus getting the fall market off to a better start this year.

Prospective sweetpotato acreage in 1972 is again the lowest of record, 2 percent below 1971 and 17 percent less than 1970. Grower prices for the 1971 crop have averaged above a year earlier.

The 1971 dry bean crop was the smallest since 1967, and total supplies are the smallest in recent history. Prices for most classes are up sharply; these light supplies and an active export demand have squeezed domestic use. Growers plan to increase 1972 acreage by 7 percent—mostly in the white bean producing sections, and also in California where limas are important.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

FRESH VEGETABLES

Vegetable supplies this spring probably will be slightly less than a year ago, based on production prospects for 15 vegetables (excluding melons) which account for more than three-fourths of spring crops. Import volume is not expected to be enough different compared with last spring to alter this supply pattern. Early spring vegetable production is down 5 percent, partly because Florida tomato acreage was harvested in the winter, rather than the spring season.

Florida vegetables suffered the least weather damage in years, as that State enjoyed above average temperatures much of the winter. Cold weather affected California vegetables early in the winter, delaying and reducing the important lettuce harvest.

Except for lettuce and celery, supplies of most winter vegetables have been more generous this season, especially since late February. Domestic production of winter vegetables was slightly more than a year ago. Florida tomato production rose sharply.

As usual, fresh vegetable prices fluctuated widely this winter. From December through February, grower prices were record high, but in March they plummeted to the lowest level since 1967. This was largely the result of increased lettuce harvest activity, plus the effect of heavy Florida tomato marketings coinciding with stepped-up Mexican tomato imports. Fresh vegetable prices have recovered from this March low, but any further gains will be tempered by usual seasonal increases in supply.

Spring cantaloup plantings are expected to be moderately larger than last year, and substantially larger acreages of late spring and early summer watermelons are planned. Florida late spring watermelon acreage is 7,100 acres larger this season. Most of the early summer acreage gain is in Texas where the prospective acreage is 40 percent more.

Prospects for Major Fresh Vegetables

U.S. early spring tomato production is currently estimated more than a fourth less than a year ago. The supply from Mexican sources will decrease seasonally during May and then fall off sharply in June.

Tomatoes—Winter production in Florida was nearly 50 percent more than the small crop of a year earlier, and the most generous crop since 1967. Some of this gain was undoubtedly borrowed from the early spring crop which is currently reported at 9,800 acres versus 15,100 a year ago. The combined winter and early spring acreage in Florida is 27,900 - about a tenth more than a year earlier. Additional early spring production in California and Texas is about the same as a year earlier.

Mexican tomato imports picked up sharply during February and peaked in early March. With these heavy supplies on the market, prices fell steadily throughout the season. Quotations f.o.b. Nogales, Ariz., and at Florida shipping points fell to 11-12 cents per pound in mid-March for comparable grades that earlier in the season had reached 28 cents. The Mexican growers association in mid-March ordered a reduction of packing activity, which restricted exports. By late March, prices moved higher once more.

Table 1.—Major sources of U.S. winter tomato supplies*[1]

Season Oct. thru mid-April	Florida	Mexico[2]	Total	Mexico as percent of total
	Thousand carlots	*Thousand carlots*	*Thousand carlots*	*Percent*
1967/68 ..	12.5	8.1	20.6	39
1968/69 ..	9.4	10.5	19.9	53
1969/70 ..	6.0	13.3	19.3	69
1970/71 ..	7.7	11.4	19.1	60
1971/72 ..	10.0	11.8	21.8	54

*[1] Fruit and Vegetable Division - AMS - USDA [2] Border crossings include shipments to Canada.

Cabbage—The U.S. 1972 winter crop of cabbage was 4 percent larger than a year ago, and the largest winter crop since the late 1940's. Early spring production is the same as in 1971. In recent weeks, grower prices for the new crop have been running slightly lower than a year earlier. However, New York storage stocks were much lighter than the burdensome quantity available the previous season. Below average temperatures have helped maintain quality. March grower prices nationally as reported by the SRS averaged slightly higher than a year ago. The late spring acreage forecast calls for moderately more this season, with most of the gain coming from North Carolina. Early summer acreage intentions suggest slightly larger plantings. Only minor changes are expected among the 10 States which produce summer cabbage.

Carrots—Winter carrot production rose 1 percent as a larger crop in California offset smaller production in Texas. Early April shipping point prices were 6-7½ cents per pound at California shipping points. In February prices were as high as 12 cents per pound, about the same as a year earlier. A fairly steady volume of supplies is expected during April and May. Carrot supplies usually hold steady through the spring and are seasonally low later in the summer.

Celery—U.S. winter celery production fell 2 percent. There were small reductions in both California and Florida. Florida shipped more of its crop earlier than usual; peak movement was in mid-February. California volume increased during March. F.o.b. prices, more than $7.00 per crate in February, dropped to $2.25 in early April in California. A similar price pattern, though not as extreme, took place in Florida. This large price swing did not reflect differences in the weekly rate of shipping; it probably was a reaction to a sharp prior drop in lettuce prices.

Celery shipments are expected to hold fairly steady until the seasonal decline in Florida in mid-May. Combined Florida and California spring production is the same as last year. Florida is 10 percent less, but California is estimated 7 percent more, reflecting a heavier yield in that State.

Lettuce—Early spring lettuce supplies, mostly from Arizona and California, are expected to be about the same as a year earlier. Winter production was moderately smaller. Warm weather in much of March brought on heavy shipments keeping prices at very low levels ($1.50 per crate of 24). This contrasted sharply with $4 - $5 prices reported in January and February. Harvest activity in California shifted northward in March as the Imperial Valley completed its harvest by mid-month. By the end of the month, Palo Verde, Oxnard, and Kern districts were shipping. Heavy shipping from Central Arizona was underway late in March, and in early April, but Yuma area volume was largely finished by the 8th of April. The important Salinas area began in early April, about normal and much ahead of last year's delayed harvest.

Sweet Corn—Spring harvest volume in the Everglades area picked up in April, and the period of peak supply will be about mid-May. Despite higher yields, moderately less production reflects reduced plantings. Harvest of the small crop in South Tecas will begin about May 1.

Asparagus—The California spring asparagus crop is a tenth more than a year ago. This estimate includes quantities used for both fresh market and processing. Shipping from the Imperial and Coachella Valley ceased in late March, while harvest volume increased in the Stockton district. In that area freezing activity was heavy during March, and packers have been shipping for fresh market only as orders come in. Prices paid to growers for freezing asparagus are averaging 18 cents per pound, 1½ cents more than a year ago. Canning activity began shortly after the first of April.

Late spring production, mostly from New Jersey, Michigan, Illinois, and Washington, is 4 percent more this year.

Dry Onions—The Texas early spring onion crop is 8 percent less than a year ago. After mid-March, the rate of shipping from the Lower Rio Grande Valley picked up rapidly. Peak harvest came late in April. Prices for yellow and white types average higher, but the larger sizes have generally been bringing less money this season. The same was true in the closing days of the Oregon-Idaho deal late in March. Storage stocks of yellow globes in Michigan and New York were much smaller this year, and the f.o.b. price of 4-4½ cents per pound is roughly double the depressed figure of a year earlier.

Prospective acreage of both late spring and early summer onions is moderately smaller. The important late summer acreage in prospect is slightly smaller this year. Among the leading States most changes are small. However, California expects moderately less, and a gain of 400 acres in Washington is offset by a smaller acreage expected from Colorado.

Cantaloups—Spring acreage is moderately larger this season, as increased California plantings easily exceed the continued decline in Texas acreage. There is also a slight increase in Arizona acreage. With increased acreage expected in the two States which usually have high yields, the spring melon supply is expected to be materially larger this year.

Lower Rio Grande Valley vines have a heavy bloom, and fruit is setting well. Harvest is expected to begin in early May. The Yuma, Ariz., district is expected to begin supplying the market by the end of May, and in the Imperial Valley of California, harvest will begin the middle of the month. During March and April, limited supplies were trucked into this country from eastern Mexico. These shipments were running heavier than a year earlier as of early April. With domestic harvests expected to begin earlier than last year's delayed start, Mexico's peak period of shipments may also occur earlier.

Watermelons—The watermelon season in Florida was off to an early start this season, as shipping from Ft. Myers - Immokalee began late in April, about a month ahead of the usual time. Florida late spring acreage is sharply larger this year. Florida's harvest will gradually move northward, with peak volume to be reached in June. First harvest from the Imperial Valley of California will begin in late May.

A substantially larger early summer watermelon acreage is in prospect this year. Much of the increase is in Texas where last year's dry weather curbed plantings. High prices early last season also are influencing the heavy planting activity this year. Late summer acreage is expected to be the same as a year earlier, but this seasonal group has only about one-sixth as much production as the important early summer deal.

Mexican watermelon imports continue to increase. Shipments from January 1 to April 1 were moderately larger than in the comparable 1971 period. With the prospect of an earlier and larger Florida crop, and with Mexican supplies still available, May-June prices are likely to average less than a year ago.

PROCESSED VEGETABLES

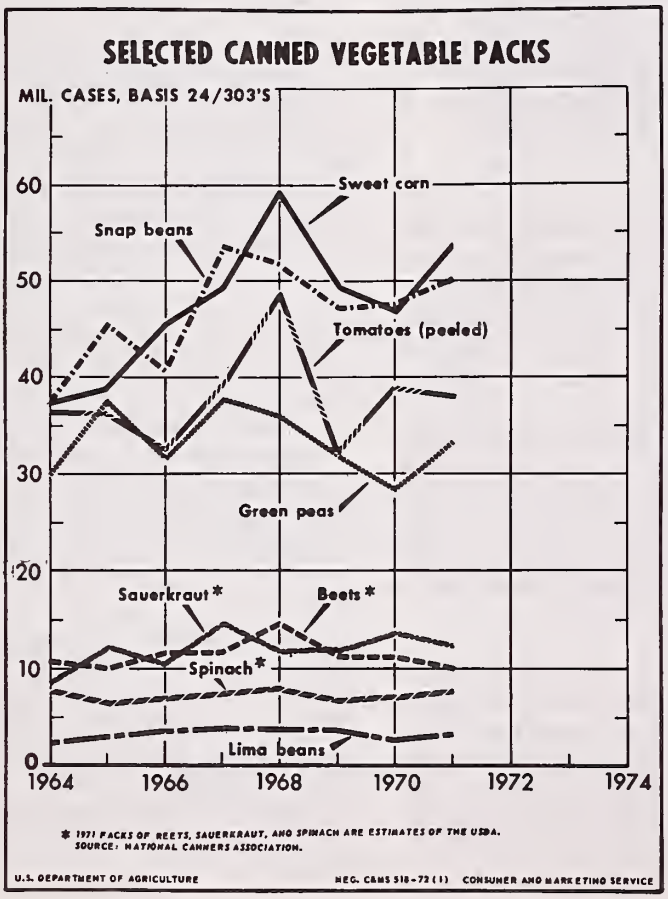
Supplies of processed vegetables are smaller than a year earlier, and wholesale prices for several items have increased slightly in recent weeks. Markets are likely to continue steady to strong at least until new pack activity gets underway.

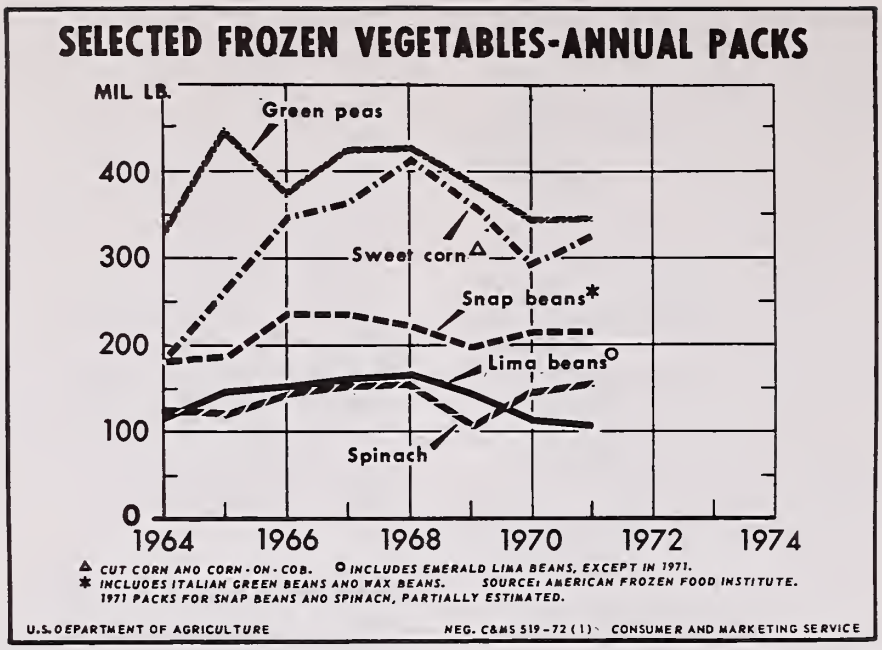
The current marketing season began with canned vegetable supplies slightly larger than a year earlier. A reduced carryover was offset by a larger 1971 pack. Disappearance has been a little heavier thus far this season, and available data suggest that canners' stocks at the end of the season will be slightly less than the previous year. Smaller carryovers of canned tomatoes and snap beans are likely to offset slightly larger but not excessive stocks of canned peas and sweet corn.

Stocks of frozen vegetables on April 1 were 3 percent less than the relatively light supply on hand a year earlier, and the lowest figure for that date since 1967. Almost all the leading items are in shorter supply, except for broccoli and spinach which are being replenished by new pack activity in California. Disappearance of 6 major vegetables has been heavier even though beginning supplies were slightly smaller.

Prospective Acreage Up Moderately

March and April intentions for 8 major processing vegetables, which account for nearly 90 percent of the total annual processing tonnage, indicated 3 percent more total acreage of these crops in 1972. Note the major differences in canning vegetables between this year and last: Prospective tomato acreage is up 4 percent, and 9 percent more kraut cabbage tonnage is likely to be under contract this year.





These intentions, assuming normal yields, would mean slightly to moderately larger packs of canned vegetables and substantially larger packs of frozen vegetables. A closer look at present intentions shows that most of the expected gain in canned vegetable packs will come from tomatoes, and possibly sweet corn. Small changes are noted for other canning vegetables, although beet acreage is up 9 percent. The most important gains for freezing vegetables are in lima beans, snap beans, and sweet corn. Other indications suggest larger packs of frozen asparagus, winter spinach, and spring broccoli for 1972.

Anticipating the 1972/73 Supply

With average yields and normal weather, the total supply of canned vegetables this fall may well be larger than a year ago. Even though the carryover into the new marketing season may be little different 1972 packs will be slightly or moderately larger under the conditions previously outlined. Such supply gains are not likely to prove burdensome to the industry.

The anticipated carryover of frozen vegetables again will be the smallest in years. With the expanded demand for frozen vegetables, this industry probably could handle a moderately larger total pack this season with little difficulty. However, further increase beyond present acreage intentions could bring on a price-depressing pack of frozen vegetables.

Prospects for Leading Vegetables

Lima Beans—Canned lima bean stocks on April 1 were moderately smaller than a year ago, and the lowest since 1967. Shipments have been running less due to this reduced supply, but the carryover again will be light. Prospective acreage for canning in 1972 is down less than 1 percent.

The 1971 pack of all kinds of frozen limas was 115 million pounds, only slightly larger than a year earlier and one of the smallest packs in recent years. As a result, total frozen lima stocks are the lowest since 1960. Prices are firm, and lists are about the same as a year earlier, though the present light supply position suggests some increase. Disappearance of limas will reflect the small available supply which was 9 percent below 1971 and nearly a fourth less than 1970. Prospective acreage for freezing is 13 percent larger than a year ago.

Snap Beans—Even though the total supply was up slightly, canners' stocks of all green and wax beans on March 1 were 14 percent smaller than a year earlier. Movement through trade channels has been brisk this season. With continued strong trade interest in this vegetable, the carryover of canned beans is expected to be at a very moderate level on July 1, much below most recent seasons. Stocks of 6/10's are especially light, while popular retail sizes are in slightly smaller supply than a year earlier. Wholesale prices for canned snap beans, both the institutional and retail sizes, are moderately higher than a year ago.

The prospective acreage of snap beans for canning is not much different from 1971. With average yields per acre, adjusted for trend, the tonnage available this coming season would be slightly less than a year ago. In the Pacific Northwest, tonnage would be substantially less.

A larger pack of frozen snap beans in 1971 did not offset the small carryover. The pack of regular cut frozen green was moderately larger than a year ago, but there was a smaller pack of french style. Two specialty packs, Italian and whole green, gained sharply. Stocks of frozen snap beans on April 1 were the smallest in years, although the total supply available this market season was only slightly less than last year. Prices hold firm to strong.

Table 2.—Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings

Crop	Planted acreage			1972 as percentage of	
	1970	1971	Prospective 1972	1970	1971
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Beans, green lima:					
Freezing	47	46	52	111	113
Canning	27	28	28	102	100
Beans, snap:					
Freezing	52	58	70	134	120
Canning	190	192	191	101	100
Beets for canning	16	14	15	93	109
Corn, sweet:					
Freezing	94	104	115	122	111
Canning	335	340	353	106	104
Cucumbers for pickles	141	134	134	95	99
Peas, green:					
Freezing	142	136	140	99	103
Canning	265	274	271	102	99
Spinach, winter:					
Freezing	5	6	7	129	123
Canning	4	5	5	121	105
Tomatoes	249	260	270	108	104
Total 8 crops[1]	1,568	1,598	1,651	105	98

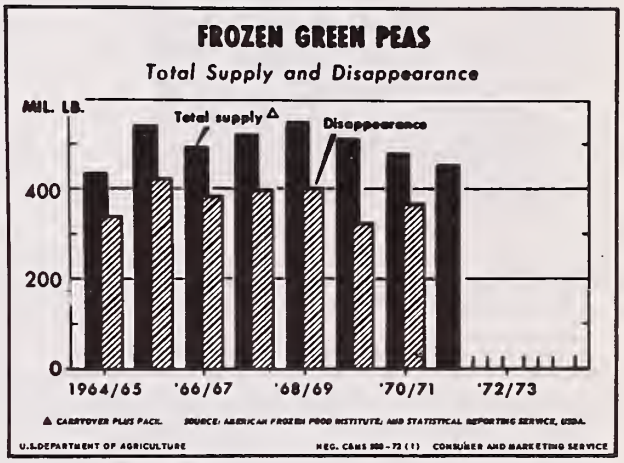
[1] May not add to total due to rounding.

The acreage planned for freezing this season is expected to be 20 percent larger. All regions expect to plant more, with the largest increase in the East. Some adjustment of acreage between canning and freezing is likely after growers and packers assess prospective supplies. Some increase in canning acreage and a smaller gain in indicated freezing acreage probably could be justified.

Green Peas—Prospective aceage of green peas for canning is 1 percent less this year. There is no change in acreage planned in the important Central region, but further rreduction in canning activity in the West offset gains in the East. With normal yields, tonnage from this expected acreage would be 3 percent less than 1971. The suggests the industry is expecting further reductions in the use of canned peas, because the expected carryover probably will be only slightly larger than the small quantity carried over a year ago.

Disappearance of canned peas in 1970/71 dropped to 31 million cases (basis 24/303's) compared with 34 million in other recent seasons. For the current season, disappearance will probably be close to 32 million cases. Wholesale prices are slightly higher than a year earlier.

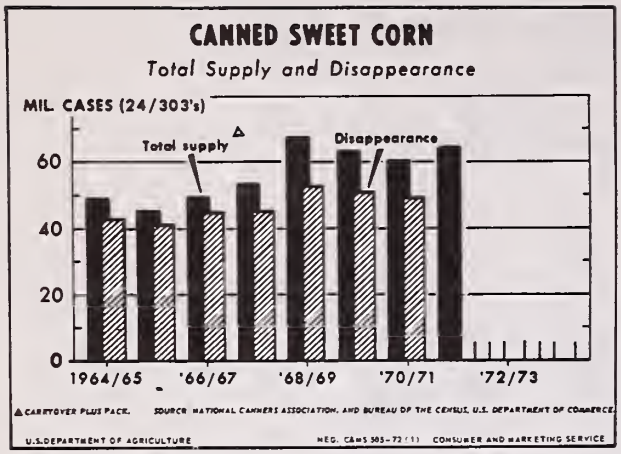
The 1971 pack of frozen peas was only slightly larger than the curtailed 1970 pack. Stocks on hand April 1 were the lowest in 11 years. Even with this tight supply position, quoted prices had not increased by early April, and were the same as a year earlier. Furthermore, the freezing industry plans to increase 1972 acreage only by 3 percent. Under average yield conditions, this increase would result in a tonnage roughly equal to 1971. Supplies would continue tight and prices would be expected to advance, even though the trade demand for frozen peas may not be as strong as for some other processed vegetables. Excluding potatoes, peas are still the leading frozen vegetable item, though sweet corn is now a close second.

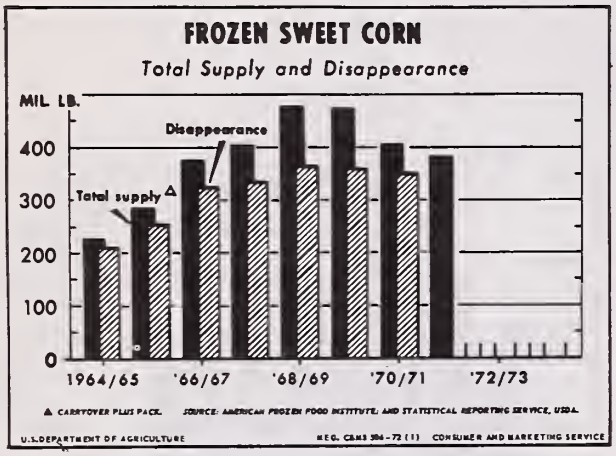


Sweet Corn—Stocks of canned sweet corn on March 1 were slightly larger than a year ago, but 8 percent less than 2 years earlier. Movement of the large 1971 pack has been heavy, and prospects of a moderate carryover are good. Prices are mixed relative to a year earlier. Eastern packs have been bringing a little more than last year while the important Midwestern region presents a varied picture for the various leading can sizes and styles.

Canners are planning to contract for 4 percent more acreage this season with 5 percent more in the Midwest. With yields near average, the 1972 tonnage and pack would be only slightly more than a year ago.

Even though the 1971 pack of frozen corn was larger than 1970, it fell far short of the 1968 record. In addition, carryover stocks were sharply below the burdensome stocks of other recent years, and current stock levels are the lowest since the middle 1960's. Prices for frozen cut corn are generally moderately higher than a year earlier reflecting strong demand. Cob corn seems to be growing in popularity as the 1971 pack of 107 million pounds was a fourth above the previous record.

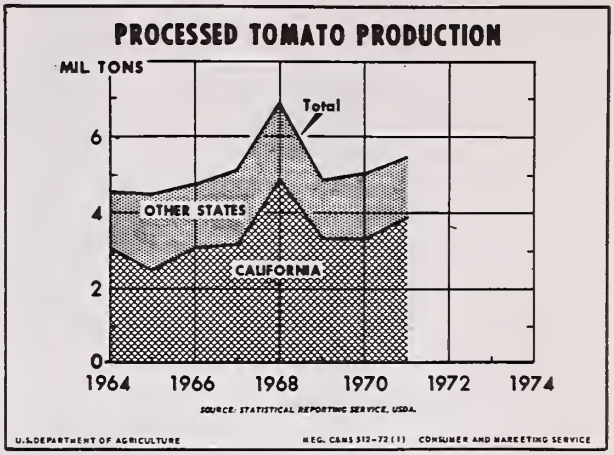




With the carryover of frozen corn expected to be the smallest in years, the industry could readily absorb a larger pack in 1972. Growers expect to plant 11 percent more acreage this season for freezing purposes.

Tomatoes—Growers produced 9 percent more tomatoes last year. Pack and stocks data are incomplete, but most of the increased raw product tonnage probably went into the more concentrated items rather than peeled or juice. Canners' stocks of peeled tomatoes in January were 7 percent smaller than a year ago. Since that time, prices of all major can sizes have advanced. Carryover of this item is expected to be on the light side. Juice stocks in January were close to the supplies on hand a year earlier. Prices are only slightly higher than a year ago, reflecting a balanced supply postion. For most concentrated products, which account for more than two-thirds of the raw product tonnage, wholesale prices continue strong. These developments suggest that markets could absorb some additional domestic tonnage this coming season.

The 1972 prospective planted acreage of tomatoes is 4 percent more than 1971 and 8 percent more than 1970. Under average conditions this could bring on moderately more tonnage than a year ago. Acreage expected in California is up 9 percent this year. Last season this State, with an average yield of 23.7 tons per acre, accounted for 70 percent of U.S. processed tomato production.



Cucumbers for Pickles—The total supply for pickles is about the same as the generous supply of a year earlier. Disappearance is expected to continue heavy. The industry is planning to decrease acreage in 1972 by 1 percent. Decreases in Mississippi, California, and in minor producing States offset small gains in the Carolinas, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Sauerkraut—The 1971 kraut pack was about an eighth smaller than the relatively large tonnage of a year earlier. Stocks on April 1 were 14 percent smaller than a year ago. Even with smaller supplies, recent wholesale prices for consumer sizes have been running the same as a year earlier. Prices for number 10's are slightly less this year.

Intentions reports in early April indicate that packers are planning to contract for about 9 percent more tonnage. These intentions do not include open market purchases which usually comprise 10-15 percent of the total supply.

Beets—Stocks of canned beets on January 1 were nearly a sixth less than a year ago, reflecting a smaller 1971 pack of 10.4 million cases (basis 24/303's). This is the third season with successively smaller stocks. Canners' stocks of 7.5 million cases this January compare with 10.3 million on January 1, 1969. Wholesale prices have held steady to firm, edging upward slowly since 1969. Nonetheless, stocks are adequate, and processors plan to draw from a 9 percent larger acreage.

Spinach—Frozen spinach supplies, with a 28 million pound carryin, were relatively light again this year. The supply will be augmented by an 8 percent larger winter production expected in California. Wholesale prices now are reflecting off-the-line allowances, making this processed vegetable one of the more attractively prices products available to the trade this time of the year.

The pack of canned spinach (March 1971 to March 1972) was 7.7 million cases, 6 percent more than last year. March 1 stocks were a fifth smaller. Canning activity got underway in mid-March in California.

POTATOES

Potato markets have been weak ever since the record 1970 fall crop began moving to market. They recovered only moderately in the summer of 1971, and the market for the important fall crop began on a depressed note. The U.S. average price in October was $1.78 per hundredweight; it gained slowly into January, but prices have fallen back contraseasonally since then. The March average was only $1.78. Considering all fall States combined, March 1 stocks were less than 1 percentage point below the record stocks of the same date last year. Recent shipping point prices for western Russets were higher than a year earlier, but round stock has been bringing less money, especially in the Red River Valley where supplies are burdensome. Movement through table stock and chipping outlets has been lagging behind a year earlier, except in Idaho, where movement has accelerated. A Western States potato trade committee report noted that both Washington and Idaho growers had sent more tonnage to food processors than a year earlier. Non-food use in 5 major Western porduction areas was down. Total disappearance of the Western crop probably has been heavy enough to hold Russet prices steady to higher during the rest of the trading season. Florida new crop prices were about an eighth less than a year ago. Early April prices for new crop round reds were $2.25 per 50 pound sack, U.S. number 1, washed stock.

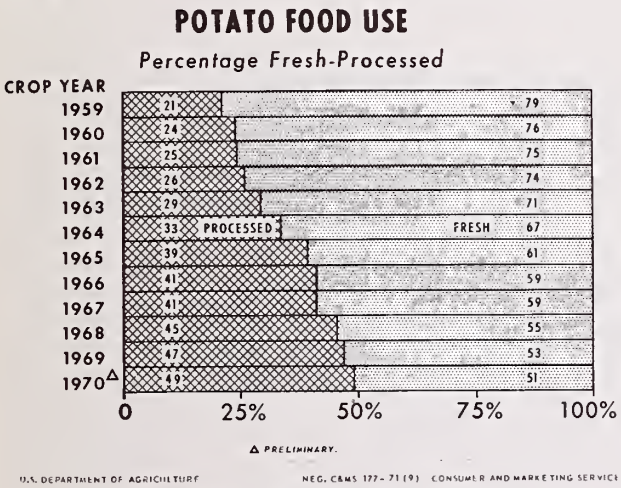


Table 3.—Pack of frozen potato products*

Year	Mil. lb.	Year	Mil. lb.
1960	551	1966	1,460
1961	579	1967	1,491
1962	762	1968	1,736
1963	862	1969	2,048
1964	1,118	1970	2,404
1965	1,219	1971	2,552

*American Frozen Food Institute

Less Early Crop Acreage

Both the Florida and California winter potato crops were smaller again this season, but the early spring crop, largely from the Hastings (Fla.) area, is 7 percent larger than 1971, but a sixth smaller than 1970. In that section crop conditions have been generally good, and first light digging took place early in April. Volume supplies became available much earlier than last year's delayed shipments. Chippers use most of the Hastings area crop.

Late spring and early summer acreage prospects are 9 percent less this year. Growers in California, Arizona, and North Carolina plan to reduce their acreage this season. A moderate increase is expected in Alabama.

Late Summer and Fall Prospective Acreage Down Slightly

The potato industry is planning a 3 percent cut in acreage of the important late summer and fall crop. All major areas, East, Central, and Western, intend to plant less. For the 5 major producing States, Idaho expects to plant 2 percent less, Maine 3 percent less, North Dakota 1 percent less, Minnesota 3 percent less, and Washington 8 percent less. These States account for almost two-thirds of the total acreage planned for 1972 in these seasonal groups. If the intended late summer and fall acreage is planted, and if growers realize average yields adjusted for trend, production would total 269 million hundredweight, about 3 percent under 1971.

Past experience would indicate that such a cutback might raise prices 10-15 percent for the fall crop. But, in more recent years, processors are absorbing a larger share of the crop, and their needs in the fall of 1972 may not be as heavy as a year ago. This means that prices, while higher than the fall of 1971, might not be greatly different from 1968, 1969, or 1970. But, late spring and early summer production could be enough less to give prices a chance to rise seasonally. This would tend to get the fall market off to a better start this season.

Stocks of all frozen potato products on March 1 were 14 percent larger than on the same date a year earlier, and frozen french fry stocks were an eighth larger. The industry is continuing its long-term expansion, as the 1971 pack of frozen potato products was nearly 2.6 billion pounds, a gain of 7 percent from 1970.

SWEETPOTATOES

With a U.S. crop more than an eighth smaller than 1970, farm prices have been moderately higher than a year earlier. The March average of $7.32 per hundredweight was the highest of record for that month. Prices have demonstrated their expected seasonal rise from October. Louisiana shipping point prices have been holding firm at $6.00 per 50 pound crate. North Carolina prices edged up to $5.00 by early April.

After showing some weakness in the fall, prices for canned sweetpotatoes moved upward in March, reflecting a tightening supply condition, especially for the institutional size pack. Nonetheless, prices are only slightly higher than a year ago, and not greatly different from other recent seasons.

Table 4.—Potatoes, late summer-fall: Prospective plantings

Crop and area	Acreage planted			1972 as percentage of 1971
	1970	1971	Prospective 1972[1]	
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*
Late summer-fall				
Maine	153.0	145.0	141.0	97
New York-Long Island	31.0	31.5	30.5	97
New York-Upstate	35.0	34.7	33.4	96
Pennsylvania	35.0	36.5	36.5	100
Other States[2]	36.6	35.0	32.4	92
Eastern	290.6	282.7	273.8	96
Michigan	41.1	40.6	39.5	97
Wisconsin	53.0	52.5	52.5	100
Minnesota	102.9	103.7	100.5	97
North Dakota	120.0	123.0	122.0	99
Other States[3]	45.0	45.6	43.8	96
Central	362.0	365.4	358.3	98
Idaho	330.0	329.0	324.0	98
Colorado	52.5	44.5	42.0	94
Washington	87.0	78.0	72.0	92
Oregon	55.7	49.3	45.5	92
California	35.8	36.0	32.4	90
Other States[4]	20.8	20.3	21.4	105
Western[4]	581.8	557.1	537.3	96
Total late summer-fall	1,234.4	1,205.3	1,169.4	97.0

[1] Intended acreage as of March 1. [2] New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina. [3] Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Illinois. [4] Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

During this fiscal year, USDA has purchased nearly 408,000 cases (6/10's) of sweetpotatoes for distribution in child nutrition programs. This compares with 344,000 cases purchased the prior year.

Prospective acreage in 1972 is down again to the lowest on record-119,000 acres, 2 percent below 1971 and 17 percent less than 1970. The intended acreage in Louisiana is down 10 percent. Acreage prospects are also less in New Jersey, Tennessee, and Alabama. In Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas no change is expected, but increases are planned for all Atlantic Seaboard states from Maryland through Georgia, and in California as well. Should these intentions materialize, production in 1972 might equal the modest 11.9 million hundredweight produced in 1971. This makes allowance for the higher average yields of recent seasons.

MUSHROOMS

Mushroom supplies are larger than a year earlier and grower prices have moved downward in recent weeks. Demand for fresh mushrooms continues strong. Early April prices at Kennett Square Pa. were lower than a year earlier, after discounting for the high prices which usually occur prior to holidays. Quotations for 4-quart baskets, medium to large, were about $1.85-$2.30, roughly 15-25 cents less than last year. Strong trade demand for fresh market is reflected in the further increase in air shipments out of Philadelphia. As of the end of March, air shipments were 7 percent heavier than last year.

Processing mushroom prices also trended downward since February as heavier supplies became available. This supply increse is seasonal, but it also reflects the expected increase in 1971/72 production. By the end of the month, prices for clean-cut stock fell below a year earlier, as early April prices of 41 cents per pound were 4 cents less than last year. Processors are taking advantage of these lower prices and heavier supplies to build up depleted stocks. Mushroom processing activity will taper off in May, as warm weather production is restricted to air conditioned houses. Much of the output from these houses goes to the fresh market.

Canned mushroom imports in calendar year 1971, mostly from Taiwan, were almost a fourth larger than a year ago-nearly 30.8 million pounds versus 24.8 million in 1970 and 22.7 million in 1969. For the first 2 months of 1972, canned mushroom imports were running 10 percent larger.

U.S. production data for the 1971/72 season will become available August 17 in a special Statistical Reporting Service release. Current prospects for the increased 1971/72 production are based on an earlier intentions survey. Pennsylvania industry observers report some continued expansion in production facilities in the important Kennett Square and Temple areas.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Light Supplies

The 1971 dry bean crop was the smallest since 1967, and total supplies were again among the smallest in recent history. This was largely the result of a reduced bean crop in Michigan, together with small crops of both classes of limas and blackeyes in California. Production of colored beans was also substantially less.

Disappearance thus far this season only partly reflects the tightened supply. Domestic use probably is down somewhat, but export volume as of March 1 was up slightly. Exports from September through February were 1.9 million hundredweight, 1 percent more than a year earlier. Along with usual purchasers - Europe, Japan, and Latin American - Algeria and Colombia also have bought heavily this season. As of late March, USDA had purchased 528,000 Hundredweight for needy persons and school lunch programs. This compares with 568,000 hundredweight purchased in the comparable period of 1971. With this pattern of market activity, stocks remaining by August 31 are expected to be the lowest in years.

Generally High Prices

Since late 1971, U.S. average bean prices have been running roughly $2 per hundredweight more than a year earlier. February and March prices, in the $12 range, equaled the records set in the late 1940's. All major classes except Kidney beans are priced higher. Price support activity has again been light. Through March 31, growers had placed 813,000 hundredweight under loan and redeemed 355,000 hundredweight, leaving 458,000 hundredweight outstanding. This quantity is well below a year earlier.

Support Prices

The national average loan and purchase rate for 1972-crop dry edible beans will be $6.40 per hundredweight, unchanged from the 1971 crop.

Loan and purchase rates have been increased from $6.65 to $6.70 per hundredweight for pea beans, from $7.52 to $7.80 per hundredweight for small white and flat small white, and from $5.99 to $6.39 per hundredweight for baby limas. In Washington State only, the loan and purchase rates have been increased from $5.97 to $6.47 per hundredweight for pintos and from $7.37 to $7.47 per hundredweight for small reds. The increases place the loan and purchase rates more nearly in line with historical prices. The loan and purchase rates for other classes and areas are unchanged from last year.

Loans and purchases will be avilable for U.S. No. 2 or higher grade beans as listed. The rates are for cleaned and bagged beans with all charges, except receiving and loading out, paid through the loan maturity date of April 30, 1973. The deductions from loan and purchase rates for farm-stored thresher-run beans will continue at $2 per hundredweight in New York; $1.50 per hundredweight in Michigan for all classes except pea beans, which will be $1; and $1 for all classes in other States. These deductions cover cleaning and bagging costs.

Premiums and discounts for the 1972 program are the same as under the 1971 program. In addition to U.S. No 1 grade, and U.S. Prime Handpicked pea beans, the other supported grades and applicable premiums and discounts from U.S. No. 1 are: Premiums–U.S. Choice Handpicked and U.S. Extra No. 1 grades are 10 cents per hundredweight for all except pea beans, on which the premium for U.S. Choice Handpicked grade are 25 cents; Discounts–U.S. No. 2 grade, 25 cents.

1972 Planting Intentions

In early March, U.S. bean growers planted a 7 percent larger acreage for the coming season. These intentions to increase acreage are largely in the white bean producing regions and in California. In Nebraska, the major great northern bean producer, growers intend a 22 percent increase and in Michigan they plan a 5 percent increase. This report also suggests that colored bean acreage may be slightly to moderately larger than last season. Washington and California growers have planned moderate increases, but prospective changes in the Mountain States largely cancel out each other. Also, most of the new acreage in North Dakota is pinto. Lima bean acreage is also expected to be moderately larger this year.

These acreage increases reflect the high prices received for the 1971 crop, and in some instances result from acreage reductions planned for other major farm commodities. For example, some 1971 corn acreage in Michigan will probably be planted to pea beans. With average yields, the U.S. prospective 1972 bean acreage would result in a crop 7 percent larger than 1971, but very close to the 1970 figure. With a small carryover expected, this size crop would likely be absorbed without serious difficulty, except possibly for great northerns from Nebraska.

DRY FIELD PEAS

March prices for greens and blacks were down sharply, while yellows sold at higher prices than a year ago. The U.S. average price received by growers in March was $3.44 per hundredweight, 76 cents less than a year earlier. Prices this season are the lowest since 1965. Weak prices reflect the large supply of dry field peas that resulted from high yields in Washington and Idaho last year. The supply is up sharply and the largest in several years.

Government purchases of dry peas from this large supply are roughly double the quantity bought the previous season. From July 1 through late March, USDA bought 3.6 million pounds versus 1.8 million in the comparable period a year earlier. These peas were for nutrition programs, and for aid to need families.

Export movement was disrupted by the West Coast dock strike, and shipments were light during February. As a result, total exports from Pacific Northwest ports through February lagged 6 percent behind a year earlier, despite a near-record supply available. Even if stepped-up export activity occures the rest of the season, the carryover of peas will probably total the largest in recent years.

Pea growers expect to plant 155,000 acres, 27 percent less than 1971. This would be the least since 1928. Should these plans materialize, and if yields are average with allowance for trend, 1972 production would be about 2.6 million hundredweight, low enough to adjust for the current oversupply. U.S. average production in the late 1960's exceeded 4 million hundredweight.

Table 5.—Vegetables and melons for fresh market : Reported commercial acreage and production of principal crops, selected seasons, 1970, 1971, and indicated 1972[1]

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage					Production				
	1970	1971	1972			1970	1971	1972		
			Indicated	Percent of 1970	Percent of 1971			Indicated	Percent of 1970	Percent of 1971
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*1,000 hundred-weight*	*1,000 hundred-weight*	*1,000 hundred-weight*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Winter[2]	234.8	229.2	240.4	102	105	36,328	38,658	38,975	107	101
Spring:										
Asparagus[2]										
spring	42.9	43.0	45.7	107	106	1,330	1,290	1,417	107	110
late	77.0	76.2	75.6	98	99	1,451	1,465	1,534	106	105
Beans, snap										
early	12.1	12.0	10.4	85	86	399	432	385	96	89
mid	8.3	8.3	8.4	101	101	244	237	---	---	---
Broccoli[2 3]	16.3	17.2	19.5	120	113	1,467	1,548	1,658	113	107
Cabbage[2]										
early	8.9	9.2	9.4	106	102	1,528	1,539	1,539	101	100
late	5.4	5.3	5.5	102	104	771	818	N.A.	---	---
Cantaloups	35.8	31.6	33.3	93	105	3,726	3,952	N.A.	---	---
Carrots[2]	2.7	2.6	3.8	141	146	486	494	684	141	138
Cauliflower[2 3]	7.5	7.0	7.3	97	104	675	700	694	103	99
Celery[2]	8.2	8.6	8.3	101	97	3,407	3,605	3,642	107	101
Corn, sweet[3]	41.9	40.4	35.4	86	89	3,197	3,072	2,856	89	93
Cucumbers[3]	11.1	10.3	11.1	100	108	1,097	926	1,166	106	126
Eggplant	.8	.7	.8	100	114	116	119	124	107	104
Lettuce[3]	47.6	38.9	40.7	85	105	9,214	8,713	8,700	94	100
Onions[2]										
early	20.0	18.0	17.5	87	97	3,300	3,420	2,975	90	87
late	8.8	7.3	6.8	77	93	2,752	2,078	N.A.	---	---
Pepers, green[2]	8.4	7.6	7.8	93	103	542	552	720	133	130
Spinach	2.3	2.2	1.8	78	82	126	114	90	71	79
Tomatoes[3]	25.9	19.8	14.8	57	75	2,807	3,121	2,242	80	72
Watermelons										
late	51.4	54.4	61.6	120	113	7,668	8,418	N.A.	---	---
Summer[4]										
Cabbage[2]										
early	4.8	4.8	4.9	102	102	1,039	1,074	N.A.	---	---
late	13.7	13.6	13.9	101	102	2,966	2,968	N.A.	---	---
Garlic[2]	5.6	3.7	4.6	82	124	728	518	N.A.	---	---
Onions[2]										
early	10.7	11.2	10.5	98	94	2,933	2,788	N.A.	---	---
late	62.2	63.3	62.1	100	98	21,593	21,568	N.A.	---	---
Watermelons										
early	198.1	181.4	205.8	104	113	16,879	16,307	N.A.	---	---
late	20.5	20.3	20.3	99	100	2,981	2,768	N.A.	---	---

[1] Excludes Alaska and Hawaii, which are not divided into seasonal groups. [2] Includes processing. [3] Acreage and production for early spring only. [4] 1972 prospective acreage. n.a. - not available.

Vegetables-Fresh Market, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 6.—Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1 when available), indicated periods, 1971 and 1972

Market and commodity	State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1971		1972			
			Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
			Dollars					
New York:								
Beans, snap, green, Harvesters	Florida	Bu. hamper and crt.	7.25	5.00	5.50	6.75	9.50	6.75
Beets, bunched	Texas	1-2/5 bu. crt. 2 doz.	3.75	3.75	5.00	5.00	4.25	4.75
Broccoli, bunched	California	14's crt.	4.75	4.50	4.50	5.00	4.25	5.00
Cabbage, Domestic Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	3.50	2.85	4.15	3.25	3.35	3.35
Carrots:								
Topped, washed	California	48-1 lb. film bag, crt.	4.90	6.75	8.00	7.75	5.50	6.25
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag, mesh master	4.00	5.25	5.00	---	4.00	5.75
Cauliflower	California	Ctn. film wrpd., 12's	---	4.50	7.50	7.00	5.00	6.75
Celery:								
Pascal	California	16-in. crt. 2-3 doz.	5.50	4.25	10.50	11.50	5.25	7.50
Pascal	Florida	16-in. crt. 2-4 doz.	4.25	3.75	9.00	9.00	5.00	7.25
Corn, green (yellow)	Florida	5 doz. crt.	6.50	6.50	6.50	5.00	4.62	4.85
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	---	17.50	---	---	---	14.00
Lettuce, Iceberg	California	2 doz. crt.	7.75	3.40	8.50	7.75	3.00	5.75
Onions:								
Yellow, medium	New York	50-lb. sack	1.75	1.40	2.35	2.50	2.65	2.65
Yellow, Granex, Jumbo	Texas	50-lb. sack	---	3.85	---	---	---	3.75
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt., lge.	---	14.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	---
Spinach, Savoy	Texas	Bu. bskt.	5.00	---	3.25	4.75	3.00	5.25
Chicago:								
Beans, snap, green, Harvesters	Florida	Bu. hamper and crt.	7.25	5.50	6.75	7.00	11.00	7.00
Beets, bunched	Texas	1-3/4 bu. crt., 24's	3.50	3.65	4.00	4.25	4.00	4.00
Broccoli	California	14's, 1/2 crate	4.50	4.00	5.50	5.00	3.75	4.25
Cabbage, Domestic Round type	Texas	1-3/4 bu. crt.	3.35	3.75	4.15	3.85	3.50	3.65
Carrots:								
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag, mesh master	4.00	5.50	6.15	6.00	4.50	5.00
Cauliflower	California	Ctn. film wrpd. 12's	6.25	4.25	---	6.00	3.50	6.50
Celery:								
Pascal	California	16-in. crt. 2-3 doz.	5.00	4.40	10.50	13.00	5.35	9.50
Pascal	Florida	16-in. crt. 2-4 doz.	4.50	3.75	9.00	10.50	4.50	8.00
Corn, green (yellow)	Florida	5 doz. crt.	5.75	6.75	6.50	5.25	4.65	4.50
Lettuce, Iceberg type	Arizona	2 doz. head ctn.	6.75	3.75	---	7.25	2.75	5.75
Onions:								
Yellow, Granex, med.	Texas	50-lb. sack	---	2.85	---	---	---	3.12
Yellow, medium	Midwestern	50-lb. sack	1.60	---	2.35	2.30	2.35	---
Peppers, green	Florida	bu. bskt., lge.	---	14.00	9.00	7.50	8.75	---

Weekly summary of terminal market prices, Market News Reports, AMS, USDA.

Table 7.—Vegetables, frozen: Cold storage holdings and indicated disappearance, January 1 to April 1

Commodity	April 1 stocks			January 1-April 1 net change		
	1970	1971	1972[1]	1970	1971	1972[1]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*
Asparagus	7	3	12	16	15	+1
Beans, lima:						
Fordhook	48	29	18	-14	-11	-12
Baby	61	51	38	-22	-18	-20
Total	109	80	56	-36	-29	-32
Beans, snap:						
Regular	76	60	49	-44	-40	-38
French style	24	25	24	-18	-18	-23
Total	100	85	73	-62	-58	-61
Broccoli:						
Spears	N.A.	N.A.	38	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Chopped and cuts	N.A.	N.A.	26	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Total	48	53	64	-3	-11	0
Brussels sprouts	24	19	26	-14	-13	-9
Carrots	68	78	61	-30	-31	-38
Cauliflower	29	21	20	-17	-19	-12
Corn, sweet:						
cut	181	118	87	N.A.	-71	-61
on-cob	32	30	41	N.A.	-20	-29
Total	213	148	128	-109	-91	-90
Mixed vegetables	35	32	34	+2	-1	+4
Okra	N.A.	N.A.	20	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Peas, blackeyed	N.A.	N.A.	6	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Peas, green	174	148	118	-104	-91	-92
Peas and carrots	13	15	13	-1	0	0
Spinach	55	35	51	+19	-5	+7
Southern greens	N.A.	N.A.	27	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Other vegetables	188	193	169	-32	-53	-91
Total vegetables[2]	1,063	910	878	-393	-408	-415
Potatoes:						
French fried	534	624	692	N.A.	+76	+120
Other potato products	N.A.	84	103	N.A.	+24	+16
Total frozen potatoes	534	708	795	+94	+100	+136
Grand total[2]	1,596	1,618	1,673	-300	-308	-278

[1] Preliminary. [2] May not add to total due to rounding. N.A.-Not available.

Cold storage, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 8.—Vegetables, fresh: Average f.o.b. shipping point prices per hundredweight, United States, indicated periods, 1971 and 1972

Commodity	1971		1972		
	February	March	January	February	March 1-15
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
Asparagus	41.00	32.30	---	38.60	23.10
Beans, snap	22.00	18.40	13.20	15.30	16.70
Broccoli	16.40	14.20	14.90	14.20	13.20
Cabbage	3.50	3.63	4.58	4.04	3.80
Carrots	4.83	5.87	7.58	9.25	7.09
Cauliflower	15.20	16.30	17.70	18.00	15.20
Celery	3.45	4.03	10.40	10.10	5.52
Corn, sweet	10.70	9.50	9.50	7.20	7.30
Cucumbers	8.00	15.70	8.21	---	24.80
Lettuce	4.42	70.7	9.60	6.37	3.57
Onions	3.14	3.52	4.64	4.12	3.85
Peppers, green	16.10	37.50	16.20	15.90	17.90
Spinach	13.70	14.70	13.40	13.80	14.30
Tomatoes	14.90	20.40	14.30	10.50	9.00

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 9.—Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1970 and 1971 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1971 and 1972, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
			Canners			Wholesale distributors		
	1970	1971	Date	1971	1972	Date	1971	1972
				1,000 cases 24/303's				
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	47,572	50,011	Mar. 1	22,213	19,157	Jan. 1	3,734	3,706
Beets[1]	11,638	10,241	Jan. 1	8,857	7,481	Jan. 1	1,151	1,193
Corn, sweet	46,995	53,757	Mar. 1	25,690	25,767	Jan. 1	3,971	4,381
Peas, green	28,697	33,197	Mar. 1	11,483	12,185	Jan. 1	3,016	3,128
Sauerkraut	[2] 14,391	[2] 12,755	Mar. 1	6,657	5,645	Jan. 1	709	751
Total	149,293	159,961		74,900	70,235		12,581	13,159
Tomatos and Products[3]								
Tomatoes	39,017	38,027	Jan. 1	26,404	24,483	Jan. 1	3,439	3,325
Tomato juice	35,952	38,411	Jan. 1	25,995	26,336	Jan. 1	2,230	2,509
Total	74,969	76,438		52,399	50,819		5,669	5,834
Other commodities								
Asparagus	5,972	5,542	Mar. 1	945	872	Jan. 1	616	641
Beans, lima	2,776	3,116	Mar. 1	1,880	1,753	Jan. 1	544	523
Field peas	2,392	N.A.						
Carrots[1]	4,999	5,710	Jan. 1	3,538	3,862	Jan. 1	691	685
Okra[4]	790	N.A.						
Pickles	[2] 65,996	[2] 63,039						
Pimientos	627	737						
Pumpkin and squash	3,973	4,581						
Potatoes	6,602	N.A.						
Sweetpotatoes	9,846	N.A.						
Spinach	7,270	7,675	Mar. 1	1,760	1,412	Jan. 1	651	669
Other greens	3,527	N.A.						
Vegetables, mixed	6,793	N.A.						
Total comparable other items	91,613	90,400		8,123	7,899		2,502	2,518
Grand total comparable items	315,875	326,799		135,422	128,953		20,752	21,511

[1] Pack to January 1. [2] Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 112 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh). [3] Pack and stocks data not complete for catsup, paste, sauce and puree. [4] Okra, okra and tomatoes, and okra, corn and tomatoes. N.A. - not available.

Canners' stock and pack data from the National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors' stock from United States Department of Commercen, Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.—Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmer 15th of the month, United States by months, 1960 to date[1]

(1967=100)

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
1960 ...	99	95	87	88	90	74	76	62	61	67	73	77	79
1961 ...	74	74	76	95	83	90	81	65	65	65	76	74	76
1962 ...	94	102	125	109	107	84	73	63	64	66	75	85	87
1963 ...	102	95	82	83	78	88	85	65	62	70	91	94	83
1964 ...	100	103	98	89	83	90	80	76	76	78	101	87	88
1965 ...	80	86	101	106	121	102	85	78	78	84	90	88	92
1966 ...	106	112	102	109	97	99	114	101	91	91	103	99	102
1967 ...	103	99	98	108	103	121	110	86	82	88	100	103	100
1968 ...	118	123	127	132	108	98	94	88	92	91	115	119	109
1969 ...	107	111	109	107	121	99	99	97	94	111	147	124	110
1970 ...	137	135	131	115	152	122	109	94	112	93	107	105	118
1971 ...	113	128	145	142	139	138	131	113	98	115	156	142	130
1972[2] ..	144	133	109										

[1] All prices reported on f.o.b. basis. [2] Preliminary.

Table 11.—Potatoes: Acreage and prospective plantings for 1972 season, with comparisons

Seasonal groups	Acreage			
	1970	1971	1972	1972 as percentage of 1971
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*
Acreage harvested:				
Winter	19.5	18.0	16.1	89.4
Early spring	30.0	29.5	26.4	89.5
Late spring	81.5	82.4	79.4	96.4
Total	131.0	129.9	121.9	90.7
Prospective plantings:				
Early summer[1]	83.2	79.0	71.9	91.0
Late summer-fall[2]	1,234.4	1,205.3	1,169.4	97.0
Total	1,317.6	1,284.3	1,241.3	94.0
Alaska, late summer-fall	.72	.69	.69	100
Total	1,449.2	1,414.8	1,363.8	94.9

[1] Intended acreage for 1972 as of February 1. [2] Intended acreage for 1972 as of March 1.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 12.—Potatoes, winter and spring : Acreage, yield per acre and production, 1970, 1971 and indicated 1972

Seasonal group	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	1970	1971	Indicated 1972	1970	1971	Indicated 1972	1970	1971	Indicated 1972
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Hundred-weight*	*Hundred-weight*	*Hundred-weight*	*Million Hundred-weight*	*Million Hundred-weight*	*Million Hundred-weight*
Winter	18.8	18.0	15.7	191	172	158	3.5	3.0	2.4
Early spring	29.6	29.2	26.1	161	128	154	4.7	3.7	3.9
Late spring	81.1	79.9	70.6	260	255	---	21.1	19.8	---

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 13.—Sweetpotatoes: Plantings, 1970, 1971 and indicated 1972

Area	Acreage			
	1970	1971	Indicated 1972[1]	1972 as percentage of 1971
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*
Central Atlantic[2]	13.5	11.1	11.1	100
Lower Atlantic[3]	33.9	32.2	34.0	105
Central[4]	89.6	72.2	67.4	93
California	5.7	5.7	6.2	109
United States	142.7	121.3	118.7	97.9

[1] Indicated as of March 1. [2] New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. [3] Nor Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. [4] Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 14.—Potatoes f.o.b. shipping points, at terminal markets, and to growers, per hundredweight, indicated periods, 1971, and 1972

Item	Week ended						
	1971			1972			
	Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 17	Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 18	Apr. 15
	Dollars						
F.o.b. shipping points:							
New stock							
Florida, Dade County							
U.S. No. 1, Size A, Round Reds[1]	---	---	6.30	---	---	4.06	4.70
Old stock							
Colorado, San Luis Valley							
Red McClures[2]	2.75	2.75	2.68	2.42	2.12	1.92	1.92
Idaho, Idaho Falls							
Russets[3]	2.46	2.68	3.06	3.78	3.56	3.22	3.02
Maine, Aroostook County							
U.S. No. 1, Size A, Round Whites[1 4]	2.00	1.96	2.00	1.94	1.92	1.82	1.80
New York, Upstate							
Katahdin[1]	2.90	2.84	3.00	2.92	2.96	2.96	3.04
Michigan							
Round Whites[1]	2.76	2.76	---	2.44	2.44	2.44	---
	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
	1971			1972			
	Feb. 16	Mar. 16	Apr. 20	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 14	Apr. 18
	Dollars						
Terminal markets:							
New York:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds[1 5]	8.00	7.70	8.50	---	8.00	7.30	6.70
Old stock							
Long Island, various Round Whites[1 5]	3.44	3.40	---	3.40	3.50	3.40	---
Maine, Katahdin[1 4 5]	3.60	3.50	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.60	3.50
Idaho, Russets[1 5]	6.30	6.20	6.20	6.80	6.80	6.70	6.50
Chicago:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds[1 5 6]	8.00	6.90	8.10	---	8.60	6.50	7.00
Old stock							
Idaho, Russets[5 6]	5.30	5.25	5.25	5.90	5.90	5.65	5.75
Minnesota-North Dakota Round Reds[5 6]	3.60	3.65	3.35	3.30	3.20	3.10	3.12
	Month						
	1971			1972			
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	Dollars						
U.S. price received by growers	1.97	2.03	2.07	1.93	1.80	1.78	NA
U.S. average parity price	3.28	3.28	3.31	3.45	3.48	3.48	NA

[1] 50-pound price doubled. [2] 2-inch up, washed. [3] 10-oz. minimum. [4] 2-inch minimum. [5] U.S. No. 1, Size A. [6] Street sales.

n.a.-not available.

F.o.b. prices are the simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Terminal market prices are for Tuesday of each week as reported by Market News representatives of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of C&MS.

Table 15.—Sweetpotatoes: F.o.b. prices at Louisiana and New Jersey points and terminal market prices at New York and Chicago for stocks of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods, 1971 and 1972

Location and variety	Unit	Week ended						
		1971			1972			
		Feb. 13	Mar. 13	Apr. 17	Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 13	Apr. 15
		Dollars						
F.o.b. shipping points								
S.W. Louisiana points								
Porto Rico type, U.S. No. 1, cured	50 pound crate	4.62	4.72	4.88	5.88	6.00	6.00	6.00
California, Porto Rico type	40 pound carton	---	4.00	---	6.35	6.35	4.94	5.25
		Tuesday nearest mid-month						
		1971			1972			
		Feb. 16	Mar. 16	Apr. 20	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 14	Apr. 18
		Dollars						
Terminal markets								
New York:								
New Jersey, orange Jersey type	Bushel basket	4.75	5.00	5.00	4.25	4.25	4.25	5.25
North Carolina, Porto Rico type	50 pound carton	4.75	4.65	5.25	5.75	5.65	6.00	6.25
Chicago:								
Louisiana, Porto Rico type, cured	50 pound crate	5.45	5.75	5.75	6.85	6.85	6.90	7.00

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week as reported by Market News representatives of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of C&MS.

Table 16.—Average price per hundredweight received by farmers for sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, United States, indicated periods, 1971 and 1972

Commodity	1971		1972		
	February 15	March 15	January 15	February 15	March 15
	Dollars	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*	*Dollars*
Sweetpotatoes	6.49	6.89	6.70	6.88	6.12
Beans, dry edible	9.92	10.20	11.30	12.00	11.70
Peas, dry field	4.20	4.20	3.05	3.27	3.44

Agricultural Prices, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 17.—Beans, dry edible: Prospective plantings for 1972 season, with comparisons[1]

Group of States	Acreage planted			
	1970	1971	Indicated 1972[2]	1971 as percentage of 1971
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*
New York	86	63	65	103
Michigan	640	605	635	105
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington	275	262	286	108
Minnesota and North Dakota	45	46	77	167
Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah	290	254	255	100
California	174	148	157	106
United States	1,510	1,378	1,475	107

[1] Excludes beans grown for garden seed. [2] Indications as of March

Crop Production, SRS, USDA, issued monthly.

Table 18.—Peas, dry field: Prospective plantings for 1972 season, with comparisons[1]

State	Acreage planted			
	1970	1971	Indicated 1972[2]	1972 as percentage of 1971
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Percent*
Minnesota	9	8	7	88
North Dokota	3	4	3	75
Idaho	105	79	57	72
Washington	152	113	81	72
Oregon	6	8	7	88
United States	275	212	155	73.1

[1] In principal commercial producing States. [2] Indications as of March 1.

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